



**RE: Location**   
**Dave Bartus** to: Conaway, Kathy (ECY)

01/19/2012 01:23 PM

Steve is indeed a brave soul - I hope he makes it back soon and safely.

You may be interested in the response Ron sent in response to my e-mail concerning in-trench treatment. What's interesting is he is NOT raising any concern or issue regarding EPA's regulatory interpretation, but seems to be deflecting the discussion to focus on cross-program inconsistencies, and (what appear to me as) hypothetical cost and safety issues. You'll also note that Ron refers to "your interpretations," once again dismissing oversight as Bartus' opinion.

Stay warm and safe. I hope to be headed east-side on Saturday - we'll see how weather and conditions evolve.

Dave

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From: "Skinnarland, Ron (ECY)" <RSKI461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
To: Dave Bartus/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Dennis Faulk/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: Andrew Boyd/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Rick Albright/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Adam Baron/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Jack Boller/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, David Einan/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, "Prignano, Andrea (ECY)" <apri461@ECY.WA.GOV>, "Eberlein, Elis (ECY)" <eber461@ecy.wa.gov>, "Singleton, Deborah (ECY)" <dsin461@ECY.WA.GOV>, "Hedges, Jane (ECY)" <jhed461@ECY.WA.GOV>, "Overton, Lee (ATG)" <LeeO1@ATG.WA.GOV>, "Fitz, Andy (ATG)" <AndyF@ATG.WA.GOV>  
Date: 01/19/2012 08:50 AM  
Subject: RE: In-trench treatment for Trench 31 and 34

Dave: Thanks for bringing this issue up. It definitely needs to be resolved asap.

These issues are complicated, involve many parties and have real consequences for the Hanford cleanup.

In addition to the issues you raised, application your interpretation of the rules and the NEIC inspection potentially creates other unintended consequences for continued progress of the actual cleanup at Hanford, including:

- 1) Different requirements and handling methods for treating and disposing of similar waste streams at the RCRA permitted mixed waste trenches versus the CERCLA authorized requirements at ERDF.
- 2) Compliance investigations that focus only on RCRA facilities at Hanford without reviewing similar issues and CERCLA sites at Hanford. Potentially resulting in inconsistent compliance direction to similar activities in the cleanup.
- 3) Potential delays in waste treatment and cleanup progress, and increased risks to workers and the cost of cleanup while the RCRA and CERCLA organizations at Region X and Ecology's Nuclear Waste programs remain divided on the best way to interpret and apply the appropriate

regulatory requirements consistently.

Stepping off my soapbox, let's get started.

Can you (EPA RCRA Region X ) talk to Dennis and Dave Einan about the issues to develop a strategy to review and resolve these issues with us all together. I think our shared goal is a clear, unified and comprehensive regulatory approach to waste management, treatment and disposal at Hanford.

We would like to start with working together with both EPA houses as soon as you are ready.

Thanks again Dave for teeing this up.

I look forward to talking in person when you are over here next week.

Ron

"Conaway, Kathy (ECY)"

Yeah, we had a 2 hour delay today but I g...

01/19/2012 12:44:04 PM

From: "Conaway, Kathy (ECY)" <KCON461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
To: Dave Bartus/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 01/19/2012 12:44 PM  
Subject: RE: Location

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Yeah, we had a 2 hour delay today but I got in early. Lacey office is closed and without power. Our CompNet mtg cancelled. I guess Joannette is not coming in. Steve has been driving from Seattle since this morning coming home. The pass was closed an hour. He had made it to Clelum a couple of hours ago. It is snowing heavy here. Hanford is closed except for essential people. Don't be depressed about the permit stuff. It is all NWP Ron's section and lack of leadership and respect for regulations and we are not going to change them. We just aren't. I saw this and know this after my PSNS mtg with Rick and Ron where the regulations and requirements were staring them in the face! And it did not matter. We have to look for other ways and use other tools to make them do the right thing. It is more work for us and grief for everyone but this method is all they seem to hear. We have no assertive PM and she is kept in the dark on many things. Again, she only seems to wake up when formal letters and threats of ethics and whistleblower blow her way. I will not apologize for waking anyone up using a hammer. Since EPA recent letters and my inspections, I have seen Ron (and Rick) more awake and on guard however, both seem to be searching for creative ways to skirt the regs instead of following them. This will not change.

-----Original Message-----

From: Dave Bartus [mailto:Bartus.Dave@epamail.epa.gov]  
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 12:23 PM  
To: Conaway, Kathy (ECY)  
Subject: Re: Location

I'm in the Seattle office. Initially, our voice mail notification was that the Seattle office was open, but a delayed arrival policy was in effect (we can arrive late w/o charge to leave). Within an hour of my arrival, however, an announcement came over the PA system that the office is closed. Go figure. I'm really not all that interested in a mid-day bus commute, so I'll be waiting 'till the 4:30 water taxi to Vashon. Apparently Gregoire has declared a state of emergency, and there are something like 200,000 folks without

electrical power state-wide, as freezing rain is not being nice to trees/branches/power lines. How goes it on your end?

In the meantime, I'm thoroughly depressed at the permit stuff I'm reviewing (starting with the "green islands" chapter, then moving to Trench 31/34).

Give me a call if you like. I'm going to step out for a few minutes to get muchies, however.

From: "Conaway, Kathy (ECY)" <KCON461@ECY.WA.GOV>  
To: Dave Bartus/R10/USEPA/US@EPA  
Date: 01/19/2012 12:02 PM  
Subject: Location

Where are you? I am at work for now. Lots of snow coming down. It was sleet this morning.